

Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-14

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INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BERN PRIORITY
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 219076

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, SZ

SUBJECT:PRE-32ND UNGA CONSULTATIONS: RESPONSE TO
QUESTIONS

REF: BERN 4087

1. FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS KEYED TO QUESTIONS
POSED IN REFTEL.
2. REFTEL, PARA 3, DISARMAMENT: US INTENDS TO
PARTICIPATE IN BROAD INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS WITH
KEY UN MEMBERS (I.E., PRIMARILY EUROPEAN COUNTRIES)
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IN NEW YORK, EITHER LATE SEPTEMBER OR EARLY
OCTOBER. THE US BELIEVES THAT A CONFERENCE ON
THIS MATTER WILL INEVITABLY BE CONVENED IN 1979
AND WE HOPE THAT IT CAN BE SO ORGANIZED AS TO
OPERATE ON THE BASIS OF CONSENSUS. PRELIMINARY
CONSULTATIONS TO DATE WITH SWEDEN AND MEXICO
FOCUSED ON PROCEDURAL ASPECTS OF THE NEW YORK

CONSULTATIONS. US IS WILLING TO HOLD
CONSULTATIONS WITH SWISS WHEN INFORMAL
DISCUSSIONS TAKE PLACE IN NEW YORK.

3. REFTTEL, PARA 4, HUMAN RIGHTS:

A. THE UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
PROPOSAL WAS LAST DISCUSSED AT THE 1973 UNGA ON
THE BASIS OF A DRAFT RESOLUTION PUT FORWARD BY
COSTA RICA AND SWEDEN. DISCUSSION WAS INCONCLUSIVE
AND MATTER WAS PUT OVER TO 1977 SESSION. CONSUL-
TATIONS FOR MINOR REVISIONS IN 1973 DRAFT ARE NOW
PROCEEDING IN NEW YORK THROUGH A CORE GROUP CHAIRED
BY COSTA RICA, OF WHICH THE U.S. IS A MEMBER.
ALTHOUGH THE FINAL DRAFT HAS NOT YET BEEN DECIDED,
IT IS PROBABLE THAT THE ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF THE
HIGH COMMISSIONER'S POWERS WILL REMAIN THE SAME
AS PREVIOUSLY CONTAINED IN THE EARLIER COSTA RICAN-
SWEDISH PROPOSAL. EXERCISING GENERAL COMPETENCE
TO PROMOTE AND STRENGTHEN RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
THE HIGH COMMISSIONER WOULD (A) RENDER AT THE
REQUEST OF ANY STATE ASSISTANCE AND SERVICES,
INCLUDING GOOD OFFICES, (B) MAINTAIN CLOSE
COOPERATION WITH ALL UN HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANS AND
RENDER ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE TO THEM AS APPROPRIATE,
(C) REPORT ANNUALLY TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON HIS
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ACTIVITIES AND ON DEVELOPMENTS IN THE FIELD OF
HUMAN RIGHTS. PRINCIPAL OVERALL PURPOSE OF
HIGH COMMISSIONER IS TO SERVE AS A CATALYST BETWEEN
UN HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANS AND STATES HAVING SERIOUS
HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEMS.

B. RE HUMAN RIGHTS CONVENANTS, U.S. PRESENT
POSITION, AS STATED BY PRESIDENT CARTER IN HIS
UN SPEECH OF MARCH 17, 1977, IS TO SIGN THEM AND
TO SEEK THEIR RATIFICATION.

C. RE U.S. TORTURE PROPOSAL, THIS TOO IS IN THE
PROCESS OF NEGOTIATION. U.S. IDEA FOR AN EXPERT
WORKING GROUP ENVISIONS SMALL GROUP OF THREE TO
FIVE INDEPENDENT AND HIGHLY QUALIFIED EXPERTS WHO
WOULD BE APPOINTED BY THE UN SECRETARY-GENERAL.
WORKING GROUP WOULD BE GIVEN JOB OF SURVEYING
TORTURE PROBLEM WORLDWIDE AND REPORTING TO UNGA
ITS RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SPECIFIC MEASURES TO BE
TAKEN BY GOVERNMENTS TO ELIMINATE ALL PRACTICES
OF TORTURE.

4. REFTEL, PARA 6, TRANSFER OF UN BODIES:

A. WE DO NOT EXPECT THAT THE MATTER OF TRANSFER OF
UN UNITS TO VIENNA WILL BE RAISED IN 32ND UNGA. THE
RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY 31ST UNGA EFFECTIVELY SETTLED

THE ISSUE FOR THE TIME BEING. FURTHER, CONSTRUCTION
DELAY PROBABLY MEANS THAT TRANSFERS UNDER THAT
RESOLUTION WILL NOT BE ACCOMPLISHED UNTIL WELL INTO
1980. OUR POSITION WITH RESPECT TO TRANSFERS
REMAINS AS IN THE PAST: IT IS A MATTER FOR SYG
DETERMINATION IN THE LIGHT OF HIS MANAGERIAL JUDGEMENT.

B. WE KNOW OF NO DEVELOPMENTS IN TERMS OF US/DAVIDSON
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MEETING ON TRANSFER ISSUE.

5. REFTEL, PARA 7, CUBAN RESOLUTION: US DOES NOT
EXPECT CUBA TO ENTER RESOLUTION ON INFLATION AND
FOREIGN EXCHANGE LOSSES.

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